

Marketing Complexes so far including one in Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh in 1991-92.

Decline in textile/handloom export

4385. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a decline in handloom/textile exports of the country in the second year in a row;
- (b) whether Government have ascertained the cause of this decline;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken to check the decline in exports and boost the same in coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (c) As per the data of the Textile Export Promotion Councils, the textile exports have recorded an increase of 1.8% in 1998-99 and 6.1% in 1999-2000. However, there has been some decline in export of Handloom textiles, due *inter-alia* to recession prevailing in some of the overseas market as well as acute competition faced from countries like China, Pakistan, Turkey, Israel etc.

(d) The Government has been taking several steps from time to time to boost textile exports including handloom exports. Some of the important initiatives are as under:-

- (i) Government has launched Technology Mission for Cotton. One of the important ingredients of the Mission is to improve cotton processing facilities by upgrading/ modernising the existing ginning and pressing factories.
- (ii) Handloom Export Promotion Council has been taking a number of steps to promote handloom exports which include sponsoring Buyer-Seller Meets, participation in fairs in major markets, releasing advertisements in

foreign trade magazines, product development and quality upgradation through appropriate training programme etc.

- (iii) Setting up of a national design centres at all India level for providing design input.
- (iv) Implementation of DEPM Scheme at various centres to produce new exportable varieties from traditional items to create a niche market.
- (v) The National Textile Policy 2000 has recently been announced to provide the policy direction for orderly and sustained development and growth of the textile industry in a harmonious way and to give a thrust to textile exports.

Agreement on textiles with foreign countries

† 4386. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have recently signed an agreement on textiles with some foreign countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what are its implications for the domestic textiles industry and what is its capacity to withstand against competition in imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (c) Two separate Market Access Agreements (Called Indo-US and Indo-EU MoUs) were signed by India with US and EU in December 1994. Under these MoUs, India had agreed to give a phased tariff liberalisation schedule and market opening for certain textile items in return of certain benefits including enhanced quotas. Consultations were held during July-September 2000 to sort out a few problems in the implementation of these MoUs, in which Understandings were reached both with EU and US.

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.